

their individual constituents in accordance with the secrecy and fidelity that is maintained about their clients and as is provided by law.

Trade with USSR

7036. SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI SHANKERSINH
VAGHELA:
SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have assessed the impact of the recent changes in the USSR on the trade with that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present exchange rate of rupee and rouble;

(d) whether it is at par with the exchange rates of rupee-dollar and dollar-rouble; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to develop trade with USSR in a realistic Rupee-Rouble equation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). Government is closely monitoring the swiftly changing development in the USSR and its impact on the Indo-USSR trade.

(c) According to the latest information available from the Reserve Bank of India, the Rupee-Rouble exchange rate as on 5.9.91 is Rs. 30.8390 = Rouble 1.

(d) and (e). It is difficult to compare to rupee-rouble exchange rate with the exchange rates of rupee-dollar and dollar-rouble because the rouble is not a quoted convertible currency in world exchange markets. Indo-Soviet trade is in non-convertible In-

dian Rupees. As on 5.9.1991 the Dollar-Rupee Exchange rate was 1US\$ - Rs.26.08. The official exchange rate of the rouble as on 2.9.91 was US \$ 1 = Rouble 0.5936.

[Translation]

U.S.A. Visit of Chief of Army Staff

7037. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA
NAYAK:
SHRI GEORGE FERNAN-
DES:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief of the Army Staff visited U.S.A. in the third week of August, 1991;

(b) if so, what was the purpose of the visit; and

(c) the outcome of the discussions held there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHANKUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The visit of the COAS to the USA was a goodwill visit undertaken in response to an invitation from the Chief of Staff of the US Army. Similar reciprocal visits are undertaken with a number of other countries also.

(c) The visit provided an opportunity to exchange views on various issues of mutual interest, including prospects of closer Defence Cooperation between the two countries.

[English]

Electoral Rolls

7038. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: